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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE



SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1959.



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RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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E. H. C. Jones, A. E. Papworth, A. J. Robinson,
S. Senior.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. O. MARCH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid-1959)	...	...	...	...	...	5,920
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1959	...	...	...	...	...	1,861
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£49,075
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£192

TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The District is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, the town itself acting as a centre for the outlying areas, the chief of these being Ramsey St. Mary's, Mereside, Forty Foot and the Heights. The agricultural land consists largely of fens which were reclaimed several hundred years ago. This land is extremely flat, and is drained by dykes, there being several pumping stations in the area.

The estimated population of 5,920 shows an increase of 90 over the previous year. It is unlikely that it will alter greatly however until there is more building, and some light industry is attracted to the town. Development has been seriously held up for many years by the lack of an adequate sewerage system, but throughout the year works have been in progress which will at last provide a proper sewerage scheme for the town area. The streets have all been up, and many people have suffered considerable inconvenience. When the scheme is completed it will bring great benefits. The collection of night soil will be able to be abolished, and better hygienic conditions will be attainable in food shops and in the home. It is a pity that the sewerage scheme could not have been extended throughout the entire area, but owing to the great distances involved and the extreme flatness of the country this is impossible at present.

The general health of the District has been very good, with no epidemics. The year was characterised by an exceptionally dry and hot summer. The County Council continued the drive to get as many persons as possible immunised against poliomyelitis, and there were no cases of this disease in Ramsey this year. For some time now it has been possible for infants to be immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus by one course of three injections. A really satisfactory vaccine for achieving this is now available, and parents are strongly urged to make use of it.

The birth rate of 18.4 and the death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 population are rather above and below the national average respectively. The infantile mortality rate is high this year, but being based on only 109 births and 4 deaths the numbers are too small to be statistically significant.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the valuable help which I have received during the year from the Members of the Council, their officers and staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number	109
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Rate per 1,000 population	18.4
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Illegitimate Live births per cent of total live births	0.9
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Still-births

Number	1
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Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	9.1
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Total live and still-births	110
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Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
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Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	36.7
Legitimate „ „ „ „ legitimate live births		37.1
Illegitimate „ „ „ „ illegitimate „ „		Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	... ..	9.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	... ..	9.3
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)		18.2
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	... ..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	... ..	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	8.8

Infant Deaths	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Actual No. of Deaths	2	3	3	3	2	4
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	18.5	28.6	26.1	28.8	19.8	36.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	Nil	

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total Births
	Live Births	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Ramsey U. D.	18.4	18.4	8.8	9.8	36.7	9.1
England & Wales	16.5	16.5	11.6	11.6	22.0	20.7

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

Causes of Death.						M.	F.	Total
						29	23	52
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...			—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...		—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...		—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...			—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...			—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	...	...		—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases					—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...				2	—	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus					1	1	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...			—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...			—	—	—
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms					3	—	3
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...		—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	..	...	...	2	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...				1	—	1
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...			6	4	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...				—	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...		1	9	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...			1	—	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...				1	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...				—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...				—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...			2	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...			—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...				—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...			1	2	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases					6	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...			—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...		—	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	..	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...				—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

Housing :

Limited action has been taken for Closing Orders and Demolition Orders, a comprehensive programme of Slum Clearance still cannot be proceeded with owing to the lack of re-housing accommodation, although a start has been made on acquiring a site in the centre of the Town for re-development.

There is no known statutory overcrowding, although there are cases where families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
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Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Housing Act, 1936, Section 11) ...	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
Number of families displaced	1
Number of houses closed by agreement	2

New Housing :

There were 121 active applicants on the list for Council houses at the end of the year, 19 families having been found accommodation.

Six one-bedroom bungalows were completed and occupied by elderly people.

Negotiations are still in progress to acquire land for housing sites.

The Council have a total of 524 houses and bungalows, and there are 20 huts at the Wood Lane Camp occupied for temporary housing.

There were 15 houses erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

The Council approved applications for Improvement Grants to 15 houses and for the conversion of a building into three maisonnettes.

Works of improvement on 6 houses were completed.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	...	18
Analysis of complaints received :				
Premises	...	...	...	4
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	1
Drains	...	...	...	7
Polluted Ditches	...	...	...	5
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	1
Disinfestation	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1
			—	20
			—	

Inspections and Visits :

Highways	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	905
Housing Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	743
New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	353
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Cemetery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service:—

Number of slaughterhouses on register	...	...	...	3
Number of visits for meat inspection	...	...	...	353

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	131 +	9 +	6 +	303 +	3085
Number inspected	131	9	6	303	3085
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	16	2	—	1	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	12.2%	22.2%	—	.3%	.3%
Tuberculosis only:—					
whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	.2%
Total weight of meat condemned	...	...	...	1,197 lbs.	
Total weight of other food condemned	...	...	...	137 lbs.	

Cysticercosis was not found during the year.

Food Premises :

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under:—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	19
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	7
Bakers	...	...	...	...	6
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	...	...	...	...	5
Total					54

- (ii) Number of Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 25
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered food premises ... 6
- (iv) There has not been a food hygiene education course during the year. Proprietors are aware of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. They are at a disadvantage at present because of the unsatisfactory sewerage system, which is now being rectified.
- (v) Condemned food is buried at the tip.
- (vi) Usually small quantities of food are examined, and the lot condemned.
- (vii) There are no Ice Cream manufacturers in the area, it is all pre-packed.
- (viii) There have been no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

Work has progressed on the new sewerage scheme for the Town Area during the year and it is hoped that connections to the new system will be carried out during 1960.

The number of septic tanks is rapidly increasing outside the Town Area and difficulties are experienced in disposal of the effluents.

The Council give a free emptying service, when necessary, 177 tanks being emptied this year.

Factories Act, 1937 :

Total number of Factories (including Bakehouses)	24
Number of visits during the year	15
Number of defects remedied	2

Refuse Collection :

The Refuse Collection Service has been completely re-organised and is now carried out by direct labour using a new diesel fore and aft tipping refuse collection vehicle. Unfortunately difficulty has been experienced with labour owing to illness and this is reflected in the increase in cost of the service.

Refuse is collected weekly in the Town Area and fortnightly in St. Mary's, The Heights, Mereside and Forty Foot Bridge, disposal being by controlled tipping at Brick Kilns Farm.

The collection of night soil is carried out by Contractors twice weekly in the Town Area and weekly in the outside areas. Whilst this system is an absolute necessity it is full of complaints, but with the advent of the new sewerage scheme it will be abolished at least in Ramsey Town. Night soil is disposed of by composting, but again this is proving increasingly difficult.

The average cost of collection and disposal of night soil is 11.8d. per pail and of refuse 7.9d. per bin.

Moveable Dwellings :

During the year 18 licences were granted to erect, station and use moveable dwellings under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. There is one licensed site in the area. Moveable dwellings are inspected from time to time to ensure that the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Rodent Control :

A rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The rodent operator inspected 285 properties, made 509 visits and carried out 81 treatments in cases of infestation.

General :

The year has been one during which negotiations and planning has been carried out for new council house sites, w.c. conversions and sanitary facilities subsequent to the new sewerage scheme, and industrial development, the results of which should be seen in future years.

In conclusion I would express my appreciation of the interest and support of the Chairman, F. G. Cooke, Esq., J.P., and Members of the Council, the guidance and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

G. O. MARCH,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1959.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
High Street,
Old Fletton,
Phone : Peterborough 4027

